

*JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,*

*Medical Officer of Health,*

*Tiverton Rural District.*

*Dec*

---

---

❖ REPORT ❖

FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 1906.

---

---

TIVERTON:

PRINTED BY MASLANDS', 42A, FORE STREET.



TO THE  
TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Report on the Health of the District, during the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The Tiverton Rural District may be described as consisting, to a very great extent, of hilly uplands which rise to an average height of above 600 ft. above sea-level. These uplands are intersected by many valleys, which carry the waters from the higher lands, down to the rivers, into which they empty themselves. These rivers are, the Exe, the Culm and the Lowman.

None of these rivers are polluted by effluents from any factories. There are not any factories, within the district, on either the Exe or the Lowman. On the Culm, there are:—At Cullompton, a tannery, a paper mill and a woollen mill; at Hele, a paper mill; and at Uffculme, a woollen mill.

Most of the land of the District is devoted to **Dairy-farming** and **Stock-raising**.

The different kinds of **Soils of the District** are numerous, varying from heavy clay to light or loamy.

The **Subsoil** also varies much in character, the principal kinds being clay, marl, gravel or rocky.

The **General Health** of the District was very much above the average of the last 10 years, the **Death-rate of 11.64** for the year 1906, being the lowest for any year of which we have any records. The average Death-rate for the last ten years is 14.56.

The **Birth-rate** for 1906 was **21.71 per 1,000** which shows a slight increase over the Birth-rate for 1905, which was 21.38 per 1,000.

The number of **Infectious Diseases**, notified during the year was **127**, as against 82 in 1905 and 133 in 1904.

Of the 127 notified cases, 9 were Erysipelas, 5 were Typhoid, 18 Scarlet Fever and 95 were Diphtheria, nearly all of these latter coming from the neighbourhood of Bradninch.

Eight out of the 95 cases of Diphtheria terminated fatally. In 1906, there were ten deaths from Tuberculosis, being one less than in 1905, and eight less than in 1904.

The year 1906, has been a **particularly favourable** one in regard to **Infantile Mortality**, the **Death-Rate** being only **45.45**, where as in 1905 it was 86.15 and in 1904, 99.43.

The **Zymotic Death-rate** is also much lower than in the preceding year, when it was 1.118. **In 1906, it was only .526.**

In 1906, there were 15 deaths of children under one year of age. Of these deaths, 1 was caused by bronchitis, 2 by pneumonia, 3 premature birth, 2 by accidents of various kinds, and 7 by unclassified causes.

In **1895**, there were 52 deaths of children under one year old.

Unfortunately, another year has passed, in which the public have not on any occasion taken advantage of the offer made by the District Council to properly **disinfect** the **premises** where a death has occurred from phthisis.

Various **Schools of the District** were closed on the following dates for the causes given below:—

SCHOOL.		DATE.	CAUSE.
Bradninch	...	14th March—one month	Diphtheria.
Templeton	...	June 27th—one month	Whooping Cough.
Bradninch	...	Sept. 28th—three weeks	Diphtheria.
Bradninch	...	Oct. 22nd—till Nov. 5th	„
Thorverton	...	Nov. 1st—three weeks	Scarlet Fever.
Bradninch	...	Nov 12th—Dec. 10th	Diphtheria.

## DIPHTHERIA IN BRADNINCH.

The epidemic of Diphtheria which took place in Bradninch in November and December, 1905, appeared to have abated in the beginning of 1906, as there were no cases during the month of January, but it again made its appearance in February, and became still more prevalent during the month of March. The Schools were closed for over two months from the 14th March, and at once the epidemic began to decline, and during this period there was only one notification of Diphtheria received. On the re-opening of the Schools, on June 1st, fresh cases immediately began to crop up, and continued to do so. Through the prevalence of the disease, great uneasiness was created in the town, and it was decided to ask the Local Government Board for the services of one of their Inspectors, to hold an enquiry into the cause of the epidemic. With this object in view, Dr. Manby was appointed to make an investigation. Accordingly, on September 7th, 8th, and following days, Dr. Manby, the Sanitary Inspector and I, visited Bradninch, and inspected the throats of all the school children, and also each house where a case of Diphtheria had occurred, and after consulting with the local authorities, made arrangements



with the resident medical man, Dr. D. Muir, that he should take free "swabbings" from the throats of all the school children, and also that he should use antitoxin injections, free of cost, in all infected or suspicious cases. Moreover, we arranged for the use of a room at the Guildhall, to be held as a Station, where the public could attend, during three evenings per week, for the purpose of receiving free injections and gargles and throat washes, free of cost. Notices were also distributed to the public, calling their attention to the above steps that were being taken to benefit the welfare of the people.

After the first inspection of the throats of the children, the Schools were closed till 28th September, when another inspection was made. On its being found that there were still many suspicious cases, the Schools were again closed, for a further period of three weeks.

The interiors of the School buildings were thoroughly disinfected, and all books, pictures and writing materials were destroyed by burning, as were also all books belonging to the Church Schools, Baptist Schools and Salvation Army Sunday Schools. The walls of the Schoolrooms were scraped and freshly re-painted.

On November 5th, it was decided to keep the Schools closed till December 10th, as on an inspection being made of the children's throats, fifty suspicious cases were still found. Since December 10th, there have not been any further notifications, and there are strong grounds for hoping that the disease has now been eradicated.

Following the advice of Dr. Manby, the District Council has purchased a special cart for the conveyance of infected clothing to the Isolation Hospital, for treatment by steam disinfection.

On the notification of a case being received, a Reply Post-card is sent to the doctor who has the case under his care who, when the patient is ready for disinfection, informs the Medical Officer of the fact, which is one step towards preventing delay in disinfection.

The above is a brief statement of the methods of procedure which have been taken to combat the epidemic.

It is only fair to state that a large proportion of the notifications from Bradninch, was due to the reports on "Swabs," taken at the different inspections, although the cases themselves showed no signs of clinical Diphtheria.

It would be a very great aid to the **early diagnosis** of cases of Diphtheria if the local Medical Practitioner were authorised to make "rubbings," in any instance where the presence of Diphtheria was suspected; at the **cost of the Sanitary Authorities.**

During the epidemic **462 "Swabs"** were taken, **301 injections** of **Antitoxin** were made, and **95 gargles** were distributed.

## HOUSES OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Before any newly-built house can be occupied, a certificate of its fitness for habitation must be obtained from the Council, the said certificate only being granted on the recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year 1906, there have been erected, 10 new cottages, viz., at Cullompton, 3; Sampford Peverell, 1; Kentisbeare, 1; Uplowman, 2; Cruwys Morchard, 1; Uffculme, 1; and Halberton, 1.

## WATER SUPPLY.

In general, the water supply, during the past year, has been sufficient in most parts of the District.

The water supply of **Bradninch** is derived from two spring-fed, closed reservoirs, and the amount of water is quite sufficient during about threequarters of the year, but unfortunately, during any protracted spells of dry weather, there is not enough water available to fully supply the higher portions of the town.

At present, the condition of the sewers and water-mains of Bradninch is not satisfactory, but a new scheme of drains, distributing mains and particularly new sewers, has been sanctioned by the **District Council**, and an enquiry on the subject is soon to be held by the **Local Government Board**.

There has not been any shortness in the supply of water to **Silverton**, even during some very particularly dry weather, which occurred last summer.

The County Council desire that the present **reservoir should be enlarged**, but although this will increase the storage capacity, there will still remain the difficulty of supplying the higher parts of the town.

**Wells and springs** are the sources from which the **rest of the District** obtains its supply of water, and these in general have been **amply sufficient** for all requirements.

## SEWERAGE.

The **Sewerage Works** at **Thorverton** are working satisfactorily.

The flushing of the Dinneford Street School sewer, has not of late been giving satisfaction, but this state of affairs will very shortly be remedied.

The **Broad Irrigation** system is working well at **Uffculme**.

The **Sewerage System** of **Silverton** is working well.

Another section of sewer in **New Court Road** has been sanctioned, and will be constructed with a **Resolving Tank** to deal with the sewage from the lower part of the village.



The question of **new sewers** for the town of **Bradninch** has been discussed and passed by the District and Parochial Councils, and only awaits the **sanction of the Local Government Board** to be taken in hand.

At the **Silverton Boys' School** the Sanitary arrangements are still in an **unsatisfactory condition**, but the state of the whole of the School Buildings has been considered by the County Council Educational Department, and the **entire re-modelling of the Schools** is being proposed.

There is not any **Common Lodging House** in the District.

All **Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Milk Shops, Factories, and Workshops** in the District, have, upon inspection, been found to be **clean and properly carried on**.

There are not any **Offensive Trades** in the District.

## METHOD OF DEALING WITH NUISANCES.

The Sanitary Inspector visits, and advises the responsible persons as to the abatement of the nuisance. If his recommendations are not carried out, the matter is then reported to the Council.

## METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The **District** working in conjunction with the **Town of Tiverton**, maintains an **Isolation Hospital**, the results of which have been satisfactory.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease, which were removed to the Hospital from the District during the past year was 61. Of these cases, 56 were for Diphtheria, 3 Scarlet Fever and 2 Enteric.

The **Food and Drugs Act** is under the charge of the Local Police Authorities.

**House-to-House Visitation** has been carried out in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector, throughout the District

## DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of infected premises has been effected by Ligner's Disinfecting Apparatus, the disinfectant used being Formaldehyde.

Clothing and bedding have been disinfected by the Steam apparatus belonging to the Isolation Hospital.

All **Factories** in the District have been provided with Fire Escapes in accordance with the Factories and Workshops Act of 1901.

At the request of the Local Government Board, a **Special Inspection** was made and a Report rendered as to the **condition of the water supply, air space, cleanliness and general character** of the **Dairies** of the District, in view of the "Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Act of 1899," being adopted. This, however, the Council decided not to put in force.

## BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

		1904.		1905.		1906.
Birth Rate	...	24.788	—	21.38	—	21.71
Death Rate	...	15.00	—	15.39	—	11.64
Infant Mortality	...	99.43	—	86.15	—	45.45
Zymotic Death Rate		.658	—	1.118	—	.526

*The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is attached hereto.*

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,**

M.O.H. TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1906.

---

---

TO THE TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

---

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following summary of the Sanitary Work carried out during the past year.

BRADNINCH.

A Survey has been made and Plans prepared for the reconstruction of the Sewerage system, which is at present very defective. It is hoped that this work will soon be put in hand.

*End Street.*—A new slaughterhouse has been built for Mr. Blackmore, and drained to the sewer.

At *Mr. Stubb's cottages*, the courtyard has been paved and drained.

*Fore Street.*—*Miss Greet's.*—New drainage.

*Poor Trust Cottages.*—New drainage and two new water-closets built.

*Mr. P. Warren's cottages.*—New drainage and three new water-closets built.

*Cullompton Hill.*—*Mrs. Balman's cottages.*—New drainage.

*Mrs. Matthew's cottages.*—New drainage, closets converted into water-closets, and the town water laid on.

*New Street.*—*Mr. Glover's cottages.*—Closets and drains re-constructed.

*Newhaven.*—A new section of six-inch sewer has been laid, to receive the drainage from *Mrs. Nick's cottages*. At these cottages, two new closets have been built; the others have been re-constructed, new drains laid and connected to sewer.

*Castle Hotel.*—A new system of drains has been laid throughout.

*Millway.*—*Mr. Saunder's cottages.*—New gulley traps have been put in and drain repaired.

*West End.*—*Culm View.*—Drains re-constructed.

*Banbury House.*—New section of drain and re-construction.

*Mr. Leigh's house.*—New drainage.

*Mr. Connett's cottages.*—New drainage.

*Poor Trust cottages.*—Town water laid on to closets.

## CADELEIGH.

*Mr. Scott's cottages.*—New privy built.

*Mr. Carder's cottages.*—Existing closets converted into earth closets and drain repaired.

## CULLOMPTON.

*Rull Farm.*—New drainage.

*White Hart Hotel.*—New closet and drainage.

*Meadow in Duck Street.*—An open concrete channel constructed to carry irrigation water, in lieu of a fifteen-inch pipe culvert.

*Higher Street.*—Connection to sewer from Mr. Hawkings' drain.

*Langford Green.*—*Mount Pleasant Dairy.*—New drainage and water supply.

*Exeter Hill.*—*Mr. S. Labdon's properties.*—Drains re-constructed and intercepted from sewer.

## HALBERTON.

New section of six-inch sewer laid in main street.

*Mr. Rowe's cottages.*—New drains laid and connected to above sewer.

*Mrs. Hellier's cottages.*—Ditto Ditto

## KENTISBEARE.

*Mrs. Rugg's cottage.*—New slop water drains.

*Coltpark House.*—New closet and drainage.

*Pirzwell Farm.*—New drainage, water supply, new pigsties and alteration of dairy.

## LOXBEARE.

*Loxbeare Barton.*—New closet and drainage.

*Ingrams.*—New water supply.

## MOREBATH.

*Exebridge.*—*Messrs. Bayliss & Co.'s cottages.*—New slop water drains and two earth closets constructed.

*Timewell House.*—New closets and drainage.

## OAKFORD.

*Rectory.*—Re-construction of drainage throughout, new closet, &c.

## SAMPFORD PEVERELL.

*Higher Town.*—New drain to cottages, new section of six-inch sewer.

*Rev. G. W. R. Ireland.*—Re-construction of drain.

*Lower Town.*—*Blacksmith's Premises.*—New six inch drain, re-construction of closet, new gulley traps in yard, &c.

## STOODLEIGH.

*Broadmead.*—Privy converted to earth closet.

## TEMPLETON.

*Town Farm.*—Re-construction of drains, paving of yard, privies converted to earth closets.

*Common Close.*—Alteration of dairy, new pigsty, general repairs.

*Little Esworthy.*—New closet, general repairs.

*Blacksmith's Premises.*—New pigsties, paving and draining yard, &c.

## THORVERTON.

The Sewerage Outfall Works are in a satisfactory condition ; the new caretaker is doing his work well.

*Exeter Inn.*—New closets, urinal and drainage.

## UFFCULME.

The sewerage system is working satisfactorily.

*Commercial Hotel.*—New closet, drainage, &c.

## UPLOWMAN.

*Rectory.*—New gulley traps, relaying section of drain, &c.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Two towns only have a public supply, Bradninch and Silverton, the rest of the district being supplied by shallow wells, pumps, and overflowing springs, discharging through a shute or pipe.

These supplies are fairly wholesale, but the springs somewhat discoloured in times of heavy rain.

At Bradninch, the distributing mains are old and defective, hence there is a considerable waste of water, so that the supply during the summer months has been intermittent. This should not be, as I have taken various gaugings and find the supply has never been less than twenty gallons per head of the population. A scheme has been prepared for laying new distributing mains, after which it is hoped to give a constant supply.

## SILVERTON.

The self-closing taps recommended last year have been fixed, and found to be effective in preventing waste of water, so that with an exceptionally dry summer a constant service has been maintained.

New wells have been sunk at Cullompton, Kentisbeare, Sampford Peverell, and Uplozman.



## WATER ANALYSIS.

Twenty-seven samples have been taken, nine of which were found unfit for use; these cases have been dealt with and are now satisfactory.

## CERTIFICATES OF WATER SUPPLY.

Certificates have been granted for ten new houses.

## BAKEHOUSES.

There are thirty of these, none of which are underground. They are kept in fair condition and regularly whitewashed in accordance with the Act.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are twenty of these; they have been regularly inspected, and found kept in a good sanitary condition.

## DAIRIES.

Generally clean and in good condition, but in some cases built too near manure heaps.

## PIGSTIES.

Several new ones have been built to replace those too close to dwelling-houses.

## HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

This has been carried out in conjunction with the Medical Officer. We are glad to report progress in habits of cleanliness.

## OVERCROWDING.

Three cases have occurred during the year. These, occasioned by temporary causes, have been speedily dealt with.

## COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

## SCHOOLS.

These are fairly satisfactory ; in some few cases, improvements may be made as regards ventilation, heating, &c. This having been brought to the notice of the Managers, will, I have no doubt, soon be remedied.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Sanitary arrangements are satisfactory, and suitable means of escape are provided in case of fire.

## WORKROOMS.

These are kept in good condition ; there is no overcrowding, and ventilation is satisfactory.

## OUT-WORKERS.

Messrs. Heathcoat & Co. are the only employers of Out-workers in the District, this is in connection with their Lace Mending Department at Cullompton.

The average number of Out-workers for the year has been 21.5.

I have inspected their houses, and found them clean and in a satisfactory condition. The issuing of work has been stopped in two cases owing to infectious disease.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In common with many other places throughout the country, Diphtheria has been very prevalent, more especially at Bradninch.

Acting under the advice of Dr. Manby, Medical Inspector for the Local Government Board, steps were taken to stamp out the complaint. These, I am pleased to say, proved effectual.

During the year, I have disinfected 101 cases; also the three Schools, Sunday Schools and Salvation Army Barracks at Bradninch, and the Day Schools at Thorverton.

## SCAVENGING.

This has been carried out in a satisfactory manner ; at Cullompton, the house refuse is removed daily in the main streets.

## FIRE BRIGADES.

Bradninch.—Manual Engine and Appliances.

Cullompton.—Two Manuals and Appliances.

Silverton.—Manual and Appliances.

Sampford Peverell.—Small Manual and Appliances, antiquated, but useful in case of fire.

I have no record of the number of fires that have occurred during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**ROBERT ELLIS,**

SANITARY INSPECTOR..





